

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested. Claims 2-6, 8-14, 17-19, 21-24, 26 and 30 remain pending in the application. Claims 1, 7, 16, 20, 25, 28 and 29 were previously canceled. By the foregoing amendment claims 15 and 27 are canceled; claim 24 is amended; and claim 30 is added.

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication on page 4 of the Office Action that claims 8-14, 17-19, 22, 23 and 26 are allowed.

On page 2 of the Office Action, claims 2-6, 15, 21 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. In particular, the Examiner asserts that claims 15 and 24 provide for the use of a compression-molding sheet-metal joining method for mutual punctate fastening two parallel walls of a heat exchanger according to claim 12, but the Examiner finds the method/process unclear. To obviate the rejection, claim 24 is rewritten in independent form with distinct steps and claim 15 is canceled. The remaining claims depending from claim 24, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

On page 2 of the Office Action, claims 2-6, 15, 21 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C § 101, asserting that the claims recite use without setting forth any steps involved in the process. To obviate the rejection, claim 24 has been amended and claim 15 is now canceled. Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C § 101 is respectfully requested.

On page 3 of the Office Action, independent claim 27 is rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,781,971 (Middleton). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 27 is canceled. Claim 30 is added.

The Middleton patent does not disclose, among other features, indentations in one sheet-metal wall being in contact with the other sheet-metal wall to form a flow-through chamber. The Middleton patent also fails to disclose or suggest punctate fastening the walls to one another at a plurality of connecting points inside the indentations with spacing on all sides from an edge thereof by compression-molding the walls together by at least one of a material engagement and a positive engagement, as recited in claim 30.

Exemplary joined sheet metals encompassed by claim 30 are shown in Figs. 2-9. Figs. 7 and 8, for example, show plural connecting points 11 inside the indentations 59 with spacing on all sides.

The Middleton patent discloses that a slug from a first sheet (such as slug 16 in sheet 1 of Fig. 3C) is embedded in a second sheet (e.g., sheet 3). A resulting slug (such as slug 17 of Figs. 3C-3D) from the second sheet is essentially removed therefrom (col. 2, lines 57-62 and col. 4, lines 12-27). However, the Middleton patent does not disclose or suggest indentations in one sheet-metal wall being in contact with another sheet-metal wall to form a flow-through chamber, as recited in claim 30. Furthermore, the Middleton patent does not disclose or suggest punctate fastening walls to one another at a plurality of connecting points inside indentations with spacing on all sides, as recited in claim 30.

As such, Applicant's independent claim 30 is allowable. All objections and rejections raised in the Office Action having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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